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Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 5
Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Hjálmar W. Hannesson (Iceland), on the basis of informal consultations

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Welcoming the decision to consider the theme "Strengthening of the coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance through enhancing the effectiveness of needs-based humanitarian assistance" at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2007,

Welcoming also its decision to hold panels on the use of military assets in natural disaster relief and on needs-based humanitarian financing, including the Central Emergency Response Fund,

Expressing grave concern about the increase in the number of people affected and the growing economic losses caused by humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters,

Recognizing the clear relationship between emergency, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be seen as a step towards long-term development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;[1]

[1] A/62/87-E/2007/70.

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2. *Takes note also* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the Central Emergency Response Fund[2] and on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster;[3]

3. *Takes note further* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, entitled "Towards a United Nations humanitarian assistance programme for disaster response and reduction: lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster",[4] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon;[5]

4. *Encourages* national Governments to create an enabling environment for capacity-building of local authorities and local and national non-governmental and community-based organizations, and also encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes designed to enhance the participation and contribution of local authorities and local and national non-governmental and community-based organizations, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships based on the recognition of their important role in providing humanitarian assistance;

5. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should make efforts to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries;

6. *Takes note* of the efforts by the United Nations system to further enhance the coordination of its emergency humanitarian assistance;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of involving, as appropriate, relevant entities, including non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, that provide humanitarian assistance in national and local coordination efforts, and invites those entities to participate in the improvement of humanitarian assistance, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the relevant United Nations organizations to continue to engage systematically with relevant authorities and organizations at the regional and national levels to prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, and invites Member States to support, as appropriate, those efforts;

9. *Urges* Member States to prepare and update disaster preparedness plans at all levels and to conduct regular disaster preparedness exercises in accordance with priority 5 of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[6] as appropriate, and taking into account their own circumstances and capacities, and encourages the international

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[2] A/62/72-E/2007/73.

[3] A/62/83-E/2007/67.

[4] A/61/699-E/2007/8.

[5] A/61/699/Add.1-E/2007/8/Add.1.

[6] Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities for Disasters, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction; see A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

community and relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to support, upon request, national efforts in this regard;

10. *Takes note* of the establishment of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, a partnership of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system to support the Hyogo Framework for Action;

11. *Invites* Member States to work with relevant United Nations organizations to strengthen humanitarian standby capacities, in particular in the area of disaster relief, including, where appropriate, by participating in humanitarian response networks, contributing to and maintaining the standby directories of the Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities and facilitating standby arrangements with the private sector;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and report, in consultation with Member States, on the use of military assets for disaster relief with the aim of improving the predictability and use of these assets, based on humanitarian principles;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide an update on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee review of its 1999 policy statement on the integration of a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance and to report on steps taken in this regard;

14. *Stresses* the importance of a coordinated process of assessing lessons learned in the international response to a given humanitarian emergency;

15. *Requests* relevant United Nations organizations, in consultation with Member States, to coordinate and strengthen needs assessments and improve data on beneficiaries by agreeing on common definitions, indicators, information management mechanisms and consistent methodologies of data collection;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to continue to identify and use, as appropriate and available, local resources and expertise from within the affected country and/or its neighbours in response to humanitarian needs;

17. *Welcomes* the continued efforts to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity and the progress made in strengthening support to resident/humanitarian coordinators, including by improving their identification, selection and training, to provide a timely, predictable and appropriate response to humanitarian needs and to strengthen United Nations coordination activities at the field level, and requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts in this regard, in consultation with Member States;

18. *Encourages* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide timely and accurate information on contributions and the use of humanitarian funds through the financial tracking service, and requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to continue to improve the analysis and reporting of comprehensive financial information through the financial tracking service;

19. *Invites* Member States to make contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms, including consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency

Response Fund and other funds, recognizing the importance of providing humanitarian assistance in a manner that is flexible, predictable and, where possible, multi-year and additional, taking note of chronically underfunded emergencies;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.